

OPER P.L. 102-526 (JFK ACT)

REC DATE 7/21/10

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

200 Maryland Ave. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Telephone 543-1400

J. LEE RANKIN,
General Counsel

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Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I enclose a copy of a memorandum dated August 28, 1964 to me from Mr. Wesley J. Liebeler of the staff of this Commission. The memorandum relates to certain problems raised by a conflict between the testimony of Special Agent Latona of your Bureau and Lt. J.C. Day of the Dallas Police Department concerning a palm print which Lt. Day testified he lifted from the barrel of the assassination weapon, apparently on November 22, 1963. Those problems were discussed with Inspector Malley and Agent Latona at a conference held on August 28, 1964 between those gentlemen, Mr. Burt W. Griffin of our staff, Mr. Liebeler and myself.

Would you please conduct the investigation necessary to resolve the questions raised in the attached memorandum. We would also like to have a statement from Lt. Day setting forth specifically and in detail what steps he took in processing the weapon for prints together with a description of any instructions he may have received in that connection and a statement as to from whom he received them. We would also like to have his statement as to when and why he turned the weapon over to the F.B.I. and the exact circumstances under which he did so. We would also like to know when Lt. Day first

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identified the palm print as being that of Lee Harvey Oswald and who, if anyone, he told about it at the time. We would like to have copies of any written reports Lt. Day may have made about the palm print as well as any photographs which he may have taken of the print while it was on the rifle.

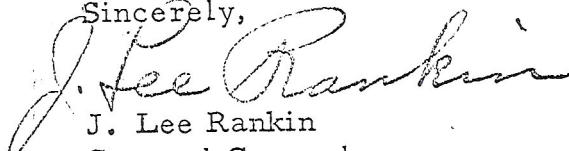
Lt. Day should be questioned concerning his usual practice in photographing prints and in establishing beyond question that a print in fact appeared on a particular object from which it was claimed to have been lifted. If he did not follow his usual practice in the instant case, we would like to know why he did not. We would also like to know what precautions he took to protect the palm print which he claimed still remained on the rifle when he turned the rifle over to your Bureau, and why the protection afforded to the palm print differed from that given to the unidentifiable fingerprints that appeared on the rifle.

In connection with the above we call your attention to pages 166-167 of the report of Special Agent Gemberling dated November 30, 1963 at Dallas, Texas. Perhaps the Special Agent who made the reports there set forth could expand on what Lt. Day told him at that time.

Any other steps that you could take to establish whether or not the palm print in question was actually lifted from the assassination weapon would be greatly appreciated.

In view of our schedule we would appreciate receiving as prompt a reply as is possible. Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

enclosure